

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09466 291055Z

22

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 046261

R 281527Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8025

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 9466

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, BE

SUBJECT: NATO CONSULTATIONS

1. BELGIUM'S DISSATISFACTION WITH THE NATO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS HAS BEEN EXPRESSED RECENTLY BY DAVIGNON, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, DENORME, CHIEF NATO AFFAIRS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND SCHUURMANS, BELGIAN PERMREP TO NATO.

2. THE BELGIANS SAY THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE AND OPEN DISCUSSION REQUESTED BY ANY NATO MEMBER ON ANY TOPIC HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED OFTEN - MOST RECENTLY BY THE 1974 OTTAWA DECLARATION. DAVIGNON SAYS THAT THIS IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE IS BEING UNDERMINED BY THE FRENCH PERMREP'S GAULLIST APPROACH TO NATO AND BY LUNS' "LETHARGY AND LACK OF IMAGINATION AND LEADERSHIP."

3. THE BELGIANS CITE TWO RECENT EXAMPLES.

A. THE DELAYS IN AGREEING TO SCHAUFELLE'S PRESENTATION TO NATO ON SOVIET PENETRATION OF AFRICA - FOLLOWING THE FRENCH PERMREP'S OBJECTION.

B. THE CANCELLATION OF SCRANTON'S VISIT TO NATO TO DISCUSS UN MATTERS - FOLLOWING FRENCH OPPOSITION.

4. THE BELGIANS REGARD THESE RETREATS AS DE FACTO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 09466 291055Z

ACCEPTANCE BY THE NATO COUNTRIES OF FRENCH VETOES OVER

DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL TOPICS IN NATO. DAVIGNON SAYS THAT IF THERE IS NOT A LIVELY AND INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON IMPORTANT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AROUND THE WORLD, NATO WILL SLOWLY SINK INTO SLUMBER. DAVIGNON CONSIDERS IT DANGEROUS TO THE STRENGTH OF THE ALLIANCE TO LET NATO CONSULTATIONS ON IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUES ATROPHY. DAVIGNON LAMENTS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO NATO DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE OF YUGOSLAVIA, WHITHER POST-MAO CHINA, THE MEANING OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES, ETC.

5. DAVIGNON SAYS THAT NATO PROCEDURES SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH AND THE LEADERSHIP STRONG AND IMAGINATIVE ENOUGH TO FIND THE BEST WAY TO DISCUSS ANY GIVEN SUBJECT. IF THE NATO COUNCIL CANNOT BE USED FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, DIFFERENT MEANS CAN BE FOUND WITHIN NATO - SUCH AS MEETINGS IN LUNS' OFFICE. BUT SOMEONE MUST TELL LUNS WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND HOW BEST TO DO IT. LUNS WILL DO THE CORRECT THING ONCE HE IS TOLD WHAT IT IS. DE STAERCKE USED TO PERFORM THIS FUNCTION. BUT SCHUURMANS IS TOO NEW AND TOO INEXPERIENCED TO DO SO. SOMEONE ELSE, PERHAPS THE BRITISH PERMREP, SHOULD PICK UP THE BALL.

6. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ALL THIS? DAVIGNON IS AN UNUSUALLY SUBTLE AND COMPLEX PERSON CAPABLE OF PURSUING SEVERAL OBJECTIVES AT ONCE. HOWEVER, IN THIS CASE HE PROBABLY MEANS JUST WHAT HE SAYS - THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE ALLIANCE DEPENDS IN LARGE PART ON THE VITALITY OF THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG ALL NATO MEMBERS ON MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. DAVIGNON EXPLICITLY DENIED THAT THE BELGIAN DISSATISFACTION WITH THE NATO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IS A MANIFESTATION OF THE SMALL NATION SYNDROME. HOWEVER, BELGIUM DISAPPOINTMENT AT BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOME INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HAS UNDOUBTEDLY LEFT ITS MARK. AT NO TIME DURING THE LONG CONVERSATION DID HE CRITICIZE THE US. HIS MAIN VILLAINS WERE TINE AND LUNS, THE FORMER FOR PUSHING THE GAULLIST LINE SO HARD; THE LATTER FOR HIS PASSIVITY.

7. US NATO HAS SEEN THIS TELEGRAM. FIRESTONE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 09466 291055Z

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRUSSE09466
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760366-1482
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760914/aaaaaljq.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PORG, BE, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006